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Via Electronic and First-Class Mail

September 10, 2011

Mr. James J. Hahnenberg
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard, SR-6J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**Re: Monthly Progress Report for August 2011
North Bronson Industrial Area Site, Operable Unit 1, Bronson, Michigan**

Dear Mr. Hahnenberg:

The North Bronson Potentially Responsible Parties Group (the Group) submits this monthly progress report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 5, pursuant to Article X, Paragraph 31, of the Consent Decree for Remedial Design and Remedial Action (RD/RA) of Operable Unit 1 at the North Bronson Industrial Area (NBIA) Site (the Consent Decree). This report summarizes efforts by the Group to fulfill the requirements of the Consent Decree during August 2011.

1. Activities Completed During This Reporting Period

- A. On August 1, 2011, the Group submitted a summary of the July 7, 2011 meeting among representatives of the Group, USEPA, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). That meeting was held to discuss and seek resolution of issues related to the Operable Unit 1 Remediation Goals (RGs) for affected environmental media. At this same meeting, the Parties discussed the comments from MDEQ regarding the *County Drain #30 Sediment and Soil Sampling Study Report* (submitted August 5, 2010) and the *Groundwater Delineation Study Report* (submitted August 13, 2010).¹
- B. On August 11, 2011, the Group submitted the June 2011 monthly progress report to USEPA with copies to MDEQ.

¹ See February 14, 2001 Letter from Daria W. Devantier, MDEQ, to James Hahnenberg, USEPA, plus attached internal MDEQ memorandum, dated January 13, 2011, from Charles Graff to Beth Mead-O'Brien.

2. Results of Sampling and Other Test Data

- A. The Group developed no sampling or other test data during the August 2011 reporting period.
- B. The Group received the data from 19 residential wells in the vicinity of the NBIA Site that were sampled in June 2011 by the Branch – Hillsdale – St. Joseph Health Agency. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by MDEQ. No VOCs were detected in 18 of the 19 sampled wells. Low levels of tetrahydrofuran (THF) and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) were detected in the groundwater sampled at one residence along Burr Oak Road. Neither of these VOCs is Site-related. THF and MEK were not detected in samples from wells further to the south on Burr Oak Road (*i.e.*, closer to the NBIA Site).

3. Work Plans, Procedures, and Deliverables

- A. The Group submitted no work plans, procedures, or deliverables during the August 2011 reporting period.

4. Actions Projected for Next Six-Week Period

- A. The Group will respond to any comments provided by USEPA regarding the *Technical Memorandum* documenting the connection of properties to the municipal water supply system and the associated abandonment of private wells (submitted September 24, 2010).
- B. The Group will review the draft Restrictive Covenant for the Western Lagoon Area property, prepared in accordance with Appendix E of the Consent Decree, with respect to the latest Michigan Model Restrictive Covenant and Guidance Form.

5. Progress and Schedule Report

- A. Upon resolution of any remaining issues related to RGs, the Group will submit a proposed schedule for RD deliverables consistent with Section V of the Statement of Work appended to the Consent Decree.
- B. There are currently no other unresolved issues that affect the performance or timing of RD activities.

6. Summary of Proposed or Approved Changes to the Work Plans or Schedules

- A. The Group proposed no changes to approved work plans or schedules during the August 2011 reporting period.

7. Activities Undertaken in Support of the Community Relations Plan

- A. The Group undertook no formal activities in support of the Community Relations Plan during the August 2011 reporting period.

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We trust that this submittal satisfies your requirements at this time. If you have questions regarding this monthly progress report or related project matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Leo M. Brausch
Project Coordinator

LMB:

cc: Beth Mead-O'Brien, MDEQ
Charles W. Graff, MDEQ

cc (via email):
NBIA Operable Unit 1 PRP Group Legal Committee
NBIA Operable Unit 1 PRP Group Technical Committee